

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07499 031730Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /023 W
-----012040 040308Z /75

R 031704Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5190

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 07499

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINN SP
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THE NEW SPANISH
AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

REF: STATE 160377

1. MOST OF THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON AMBAS-
SADOR-DESIGNATE AND MRS. LLADO WAS OBTAINED DURING LUNCH
WITH THE CHARGE ON JUNE 27.

2. LLADO HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE POLITICALLY. ALTHOUGH HE IS
CLOSELY LINKED TO THE UCD, HE ALSO HAS CLOSE FRIENDS
AMONG THE SOCIALISTS WITH WHOM HE MAINTAINS CONTACTS. HE
HAS KNOWN THE KING WELL FOR MANY YEARS. ALTHOUGH THE
KING IS FOUR YEARS YOUNGER THAN LLADO, THEY WERE OFTEN IN
THE SAME GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHEN BOTH WERE GROWING UP.

3. HE SAYS THAT BOTH THE KING AND SUAREZ HAVE EXCEPTIONAL
CAPACITIES TO MEASURE WHAT IS IMPORTANT AND WHAT IS UN-
IMPORTANT AND TO TAKE RISKS. ONE OF THE KING'S RISKS
WAS TO APPOINT SUAREZ AS PRIME MINISTER, A POSITION IN
WHICH SUAREZ HAS PROVEN CAPABLE BEYOND ANYONE'S EXPECTA-
TIONS. ONE DOES NOT GET THE IMPRESSION THAT LLADO AND
SUAREZ HAVE BEEN CLOSE FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, ALTHOUGH
LLADO SAYS THAT SUAREZ TOLD HIM HE WANTED TO NAME HIM
AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES WHEN HE TOLD HIM OF HIS
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PAGE 02 MADRID 07499 031730Z

PLANS FOR CABINET CHANGES THAT INVOLVED LLADO'S LEAVING
THE POST OF MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS IN
FEBRUARY 1978.

4. LLADO WAS EFFECTIVE AND RESPECTED BOTH AS MINISTER OF
COMMERCE AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, AS MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION
AND COMMUNICATIONS, ALTHOUGH IN THE LATTER POSITION HE WAS

OCCASIONALLY CRITICIZED IN THE PRESS FOR ALLEGED INDECISIVE HANDLING OF STRIKES BY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL PERSONNEL AND OTHER AIRPORT EMPLOYEES AND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE DISORGANIZATION DURING THE FORMATIVE MONTHS OF THE NEW MINISTRY. SINCE LEAVING THE GOVERNMENT IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, LLADO HAS DEDICATED HIMSELF TO THE WORK OF THE COMPANY HE FOUNDED, TECNICAS REUNIDOS, S.A., WHICH IS A BUILDING CONTRACTOR FIRM ORIGINALLY CONNECTED WITH THE LOOMIS CORP. AND SPECIALIZING IN TURN-KEY OPERATIONS. LLADO ALSO HAS CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH BANCO URQUIJO WHERE HIS FATHER IS PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

5. LLADO IS PLANNING TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON JULY 20, WITH HIS WIFE, FIVE CHILDREN AND A DOG NAMED TACITO AFTER THE GROUP INCLUDING HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO WROTE POLITICAL ARTICLES IN THE PRESS IN THE YEAR OR TWO IMMEDIATELY BEFORE FRANCO'S DEATH.

6. HE IS GREATLY LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT, BUT HE CLEARLY IS NOT YET FULLY BRIEFED ON US-SPANISH ISSUES. HE IS NOT, FOR INSTANCE, FAMILIAR YET WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE'S PLANS FOR A TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES. WITH REGARD TO SPAIN AND NATO, HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WAS PREMATURE TO BRING THE ISSUE TO A HEAD WITHIN SPAIN. HE FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO LET THE MATTER MATURE MORE, AND SOCIALIST THINKING EVOLVE. HE
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PAGE 03 MADRID 07499 031730Z

IS AS SURPRISED AS OTHERS AT THE APPARENT CURRENT PREFERENCE OF THE SPANISH LEFT FOR A CONTINUED BILATERAL DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US OVER ENTRANCE IN NATO. HE BELIEVES SOCIALIST THINKER, SENATOR AND FORMER DIPLOMAT FERNANDO MORAN IS HAVING AND WILL HAVE IN THE FUTURE STRONG INFLUENCE ON SOCIALIST FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS.

7. LLADO IS AN OPEN PERSON, EASY TO TALK TO. HE IS CULTURED AND CLEARLY IS ACCUSTOMED TO COMMODIOUS LIFE. BOTH HE AND HIS WIFE ENJOY HUNTING AND HAVE GONE ON SAFARIS TOGETHER TO REMOTE PARTS OF AFRICA. HE KNOWS AND ENJOYS ART. MRS. LLADO IS A TALL, SLENDER, BLOND, SERIOUS LADY, LESS GREGARIOUS THAN HER HUSBAND. SHE HAS ONE FALSE EYE BECAUSE OF A HUNTING ACCIDENT.

8. ONE HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT LLADO WILL FIT IN WELL SOCIALLY IN WASHINGTON, THAT HE WILL HAVE GOOD ACCESS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF HIS GOVERNMENT, THAT HE WILL BE A PLEASANT PERSON TO DEAL WITH, BUT THAT HE IS AT THE BEGINNING IN LEARNING THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS JOB. EATON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID07499
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780274-1125
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197807100/aaaadgef.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 433dc06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 160377
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1846432
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THE NEW SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES
TAGS: PINR, SP, (LLADO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/433dc06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014